



Oral Statement
40th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3
General Debate – Report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the realization of the right to work.

We at Make Mothers Matter thank the OHCHR for the report on the right to work, with a timely and relevant focus on **young people**. As stated in the report, the world currently hosts the largest generation of young people in history, yet in comparison to adults, they are three times more likely to be unemployed.

Within this group, *young women* are three times more likely than young men to be unemployed and this is because across many regions and cultures, they are expected to spend a large part of their day meeting the expectations of their domestic and reproductive roles. Women, and especially mothers, spend two to ten times **more** time on unpaid care work than men¹, and the more they do it, the more their employment situation *worsens* compared to young men. Very worrying statistics...

We at MMM urge States to give unpaid carers social protection, training, and include unpaid care work in pension calculations. We support all policies promoting shared family responsibilities for work in the home, and policies tackling job discriminations faced by women of child-bearing age.

We believe it is a necessity for OECD countries, where birth rates are declining rapidly, to enable women to have a balanced work-family life. In South Korea, the demographic crisis has prompted Moon Jae-In, who calls himself « a feminist President » to introduce policies to extend paternal leave, and to compel employers to allow either parent to work fewer hours.

On this International Women's Day, let us promote Womenconomics! It is long overdue.

Thank you.

¹ Gaëlle Ferrant underlines it in *Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes* (OECD Development Centre brief published in December 2014).